

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05700 201313Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 201300Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1717

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5700

EXDIS

FOR VAKY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON ANNULMENT OF
BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS

I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN VOLUNTEER
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT THE NOON BRIEFING TODAY.

QUOTE. AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND
CANDIDATES IN THE JULY 9 ELECTIONS, THE BOLIVIAN ELECTORAL
COURT HAS ANNULLED THESE ELECTIONS. THE COURT HAS RECOMMENDED
NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN 180 DAYS UNDER STRENGTHENED ELECTORAL
PROCEDURES. THIS WAS A COURAGEOUS ACTION ON THE PART OF
THE COURT AND THE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES AND PARTIES. IN
THIS WAY THE BOLIVIAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS FOR DEALING
WITH ALLEGATIONS OF IRREGULARITIES IN THE JULY 9 ELECTIONS
HAS FACED THIS PROBLEM SQUARELY AND RESPONSIBLY. THERE
APPEARS TO BE CONTINUED DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE
BOLIVIAN PEOPLE AND THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE
THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION ON WHICH THEY HAVE EMBARKED.
WE WISH BOLIVIA THE BEST IN THE NEW ELECTIONS IF THE MILITARY
GOVERNMENT DECIDES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELECTORAL COURT,
TO CALL NEW ELECTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END QUOTE.

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THIS STATEMENT VERY DELIBERATELY DOES NOT EXPLICITLY
STATE A U.S. HOPE OR EXPECTATION FOR EARLY ELECTIONS.
SUCH A U.S. STATEMENT AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT WOULD,
I BELIEVE, BE TAKEN BY BOLIVIANS GENERALLY AS CROWING
AND GRATUITIOUS ADVICE. THE MILITARY PROBABLY HAS NO
CHOICE BUT TO CALL NEW ELECTIONS. WE HAVE DRAMATICALLY

WON OUR POINT ON THE NEED TO FACE UP TO THE PROBLEM OF
ELECTORAL FRAUD, AND THIS IS FULLY RECOGNIZED HERE.
WE SHOULD NOW TAKE THIS RESULT WITH GRACEFUL RESTRAINT
AND GIVE THE MILITARY SOME TIME TO DECIDE ON NEW ELECTIONS
BEFORE WE OPENLY CALL FOR THIS COURSE.
BOEKER

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